What is claimed is:

1. A method of monitoring power outages in a household appliance, comprising:
determining by the household appliance of a prior occurrence of a power outage to the
appliance;
computing by the household appliance of a duration of the power outage; and
alerting a user of the duration of the power outage.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the household appliance is a refrigerator.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising periodically storing a time prior to power
outage; and wherein the step of computing includes computing by the household appliance
of the duration of the power outage using the time prior to power outage.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving an acknowledgement from the
user after alerting the user of the duration of the power outage.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of alerting includes displaying the duration
of the power outage.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising storing a time prior to the power outage.

7. The method of claim 6 further comprising alerting the user of the time prior to the
power outage.

8. The method of claim 1 further comprising maintaining a current time during the
power outage.

9. A method of monitoring power outages in a household appliance, comprising:
periodically storing a time prior to a power outage;
maintaining a current time during the power outage;
determining by the household appliance of a duration of the power outage; and
alerting a user of the duration of the power outage.

10.    The method of claim 9 further comprising periodically storing a second time prior to a second power outage; maintaining the current time during the second power outage; and determining a second duration associated with the second power outage.

11.    The method of claim 10 further comprising cumulating the duration of the power outage and the second duration associated with the second power outage to provide a total power outage duration; and alerting the user of the total power outage duration.

12.    The method of claim 9 wherein the household appliance is a refrigerating appliance.

13.    A refrigerating appliance, comprising:
a refrigeration system powered by an external power source;
an intelligent control operatively connected to the external power source;
a clock operatively connected to the intelligent control;
a user interface operatively connected to the intelligent control;
a second power source operatively connected to the clock; and
the intelligent control adapted for determining a duration of a power outage.

14.    The refrigeration appliance of claim 13 wherein the user interface includes a display operatively connected to the intelligent control for displaying the duration of the power outage.

15.    The refrigerating appliance of claim 13 further comprising a memory electrically connected to the intelligent control for storing time information.

16.    The refrigerating appliance of claim 15 wherein the memory is a nonvolatile memory.

17.    The refrigerating appliance of claim 13 wherein the user interface includes an input for receiving a user acknowledgement of the power outage.

18.     The refrigerating appliance of claim 13 wherein the intelligent control is further adapted for determining the duration of the power outage from stored time information and from a current time provided by the clock.